

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A perpendicular magnetic recording head, comprising:
a main pole configured to generate a recording magnetic field in a perpendicular direction;

an auxiliary pole connected to the main pole on a leading side to the main pole; and

a write shield arranged apart from the main pole on a trailing side to the main pole and having a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between magnetic layers, the write shield comprising a central portion and edge portions along a track width direction and having such a shape that has a thickness that is larger in each of the edge portions than that in [[a]] the central portion ~~along a track width direction~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording head according to claim 3, wherein the write shield has such a shape such that a number of stacks of the magnetic layer and the nonmagnetic layer are larger in each of the edge portions than those in [[a]] the central portion along the track width direction.

5. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording head according to claim 3, wherein the auxiliary pole comprises a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between magnetic layers.

6.-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A magnetic disc apparatus, comprising:
a double layered perpendicular recording medium comprising a soft magnetic underlayer and a perpendicular recording layer, which are formed on a substrate; and
a perpendicular magnetic recording head comprising a main pole configured to generate a recording magnetic field in a perpendicular direction, an auxiliary pole connected to the main pole on a leading side to the main pole, and a write shield arranged apart from the main pole on a trailing side to the main pole and having a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between magnetic layers, the write shield comprising a central portion and edge portions along a track width direction and having such a shape ~~[[such]]~~ that ~~has~~ a thickness that is larger in each of edge portions than that in a central portion ~~along a track width direction~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The magnetic disc apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the write shield has such a shape that a number of stacks of the magnetic layer and the nonmagnetic layer are larger in each of the edge portions than those in ~~[[a]]~~ the central portion in ~~[[a]]~~ the track width direction.

10. (Previously Presented) The magnetic disc apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the auxiliary pole comprises a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between magnetic layers.